

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-10

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AMEMBASSY VIENNA

S E C R E T USNATO 1703

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS, 12/31/82

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJ: MBFR: US APPROACH FOR RESPONDING TO BELGIAN REQUEST FOR
BRIEFING ON MARCH 18 TRILATERALS

VIENNA FOR USDEL MBFR

REF: A) USNATO 1660; B) STATE 058830

1. AS NOTED IN PARA 17 OF REF A, BELGIAN PERMREP DE STAERCKE HAS
ASKED THAT NCA RECEIVE A BRIEFING ON MAR 18 US/UK/FRG
TRILATERALS. IN PRIVATE DISCUSSIONS WITH MISSION, UK DEL
HAS EXPRESSED WILLINGNESS TO BE FORTHCOMING TO AN ALLIED
REQUEST AND HAS PASSED MISSION COPY OF A PROPOSED
BRIEFING WHICH ANY ONE OF THR THREE, BUT PREFERABLY THE US, COULD
USE BILATERALLY WITH ALLIES. UK STRONG PREFERENCE WOULD BE FOR
BRIEFING TO BE UNDERTAKEN BILATERALLY, WITH ALLIES BEING INFORMED
THEY COULD STOP IN MISSION TO RECEIVE THE INFO. TEXT OF PROPOSED
UK BRIEFING APPEARS IN PARA 4 BELOW.

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2. FRG, HOWEVER, IS RELUCTANT TO PROVIDE ANY FURTHER INFORMATION
TO ALLIES ON GROUNDS THAT IT MIGHT SET AN UNDESIRABLE PRECEDENT
REQUIRING ANY ONE DELEGATION TO BRIEF THE OTHERS WHENEVER THEY
HAD UNDERTAKEN ANY BILATERLS. FRG DEL WOULD, THEREFORE,

PREFER NOT TO GO BEYOND STATEMENTS THUS FAR ADVANCED BY US INTE
SPC, AND BY AMBASSADORS RUMSFELD AND KRAPF PERSONALLY DURING
MARCH 26 PERMREPS LUNCH.

3. MISSION SEES THREE OPTIONS OPEN TO US. WE COULD STAY WITH
FRG APPROACH OF PROVIDING NO FURTHER INFORMATION. A SECOND CHOICE
WOULD BE TO ADOPT LANGUAGE OF UK PROPOSED BRIEFING. THIRD, AND
CLEARLY MORE FORTHCOMING ALTERNATIVE WOULD BE FOR WASHINGTON TO
PROVIDE US WITH A SANITIZED VERSION OF ITS REPORT ON TRILATERALS
AS CONTAINED IN REF B.

4. TEXT OF UUK PROPOSED BRIEFING FOLLOWS:

BEGIN TEXT

BRIEFING FOR USE IN RESPONSE TO REQUEST FROM NATO ALLIES
FOR INFORMATION ON TRIPARTITE TALKS IN WASHINGTON ON
NUCLEAR ASPECTS OF MBFR

1. BOTH THE UNITED KINGDON AND GERMAN GOVERNMENTS HAD
EXPRESSED TO THE UNITED STATES THEIR INTEREST IN DISCUSSING
THE NUCLEAR ASPECTS OF MBFR. LITTLE ATTENTION HAD BEEN
GIVEN TO THIS SUBJECT SINCE THE US PAPER OF 30 APRIL 1973
WITH ITS EXPLANATORY ANNEX ON NUCLEAR ASPECTS.

2. THE US GOVERNMENT DECIDED TO INVITE OFFICIALS OF BOTH
COUNTRIES TO WASHINGTON AT THE SAME TIME FOR THE PURPOSE.

3. THE MEETING WAS PURELY EXPLORATORY. THERE WAS NO
INTENTION OF ARRIVING AT CONCLUSIONS AND NO CONCLUSIONS

WERE IN FACT REACHED.

4. ALL THREE PARTICIPANTS RECOGNIZE THAT THE COUNCIL REMAINS
THE FORUM FOR POLICY DECISIONS ON MBFR. THEY HOPE THAT THE
INFORMAL TALKS IN WASHINGTON WILL HAVE HELPED TO PREPARE THE
WAY FOR THE DISCUSSIONS WHICH WILL IN DUE COURSE BE NECESSARY
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AMONG ALL THE ALLIES PARTICIPATING IN MBFR.

5. THE TALKS WERE BASED ON THE US PAPER OF 30 APRIL 1973
WHICH SUGGESTED THAT THE ALLIES SHOULD PUT FORWARD PROPOSALS
TO COVER REDUCTIONS OF SPECIFIC NUMBERS OF WARHEADS, PERSHING
AND F-4S AS A MAKEWEIGHT TO OBTAIN THE WITHDRAWAL OF A SOVIET
TANK ARMY IN PHASE I. THE TALKS WERE INTERESTING AND
USEFUL BUT NO NEW GROUND WAS BROKEN.

6. ASPECTS OF THE PROBLEMS RAISED IN THE COURSE OF THE
TALKS INCLUDED HOW TO KEEP EUROPEAN NUCLEAR WEAPONS OUT
OF THE NEGOTIATIONS, FBS, QUALITATIVE IMPROVEMENTS,
NUCLEAR RECIPROCITY, RELATIONSHIP TO PHASE I AND II AND

DUAL-CAPABLE AIRCRAFT.

END TEXT.

5. REQUEST INSTRUCTIONS. RUMSFELD

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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